

### Bridging the Gap Between Technologies and Viable Companies

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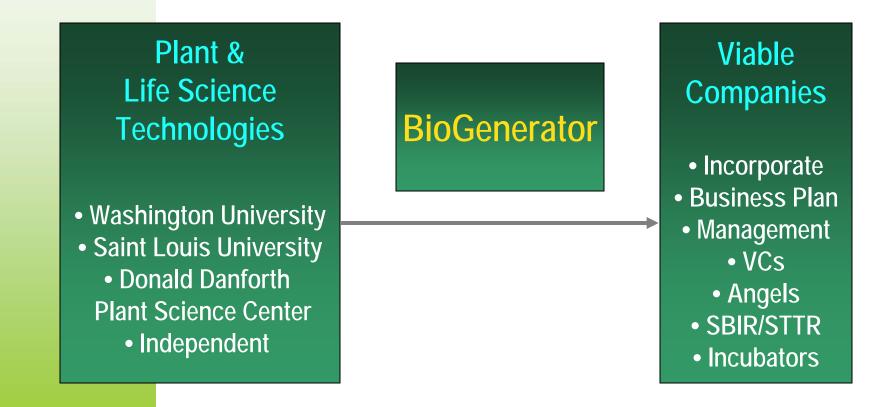
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**Powering ventures into reality** 

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# Bridging the Gap



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## Mission

- Identify life science technologies with sufficient commercial potential such that a start-up company can be formed
- Provide information and advice to faculty/entrepreneurs about the commercialization process and how to start a company
- Provide funding and management support to initiate company operations and to achieve key company milestones
- Assist start-up in attracting side-by-side and/or follow-on funding (e.g. VCs, angels, SBIR/STTR grants, corporate partners)



# Organization

- Not-for-profit corporation; operations began 10/03
- \$6 million funding from:
  - The Danforth Foundation
  - James S. M<sup>c</sup>Donnell Foundation
  - The Monsanto Fund
  - Bunge, North America, Inc.
- Office located at the Nidus Center incubator on Monsanto's campus in Creve Coeur
- Work closely with university technology transfer offices

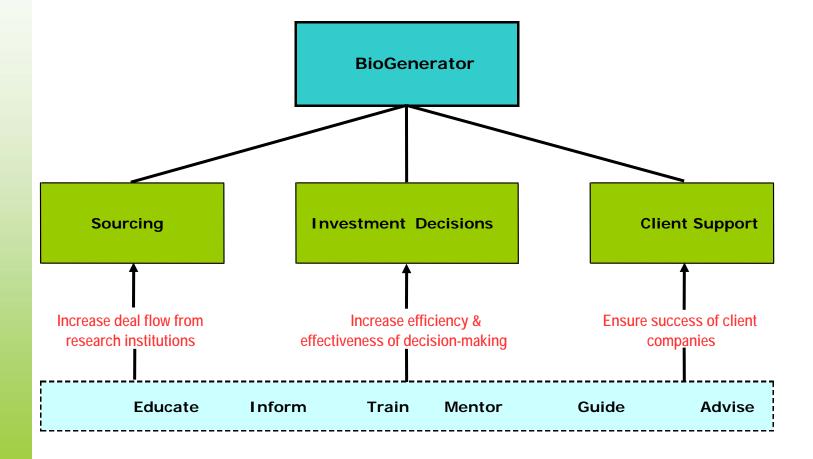


## Seed Fund Investments

- Technologies: Plant & Life Sciences (broadly defined)
- Geographic Scope: St. Louis Region
- Stage of Company: Start-up or Emerging Technology
- Typical Investment
  - \$50K \$500K cash; up to 24 month funding period
  - Deal structure
    - Equity (common shares with minority shareholder rights)
    - Convertible debt (converts to preferred shares at Series A funding
  - Side-by-side investment as needed (e.g. angels, VCs)



## Major Functions



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# Investor Advisory Board

### Objective

 Identify milestones that need to be achieved and critical issues that need to be addressed by company to make it a viable candidate for Series A funding

### Members

- Prolog Ventures (St. Louis)
- RiverVest Venture Partners (St. Louis)
- Triathlon Medical Ventures (OH)
- CID Equity (IN)
- Charter Life Science Ventures (CA)
- Mason Wells BioMedical Fund (WI)
- Arch Development Partners (IL)
- Arboretum Ventures (MI)
- RCT Ventures (AZ)
- HIG Ventures (FL)
- Arch Angels (St. Louis)



## **Operations Committee**

- Objective
  - Approve funding for proposed investments
- Members
  - Bob Calcaterra, D.Sc. (Nidus Center for Scientific Enterprise)
  - Marcia Mellitz (Center for Emerging Technologies)
  - Brad Castanho, Ph.D./Mike Marrah (Washington University)
  - Joe Zahner, Ph.D. (Saint Louis University)



### Investments - Graduates

#### Akermin, Inc.



Nick Akers & Shelley Minteer

### • Biofuel cells (Saint Louis University)

- Founders: Nick Akers and Shelley Minteer, Ph.D.
- BioGenerator \$400,000; Saint Louis University \$250,000
- Status: Graduated(12/05); Raised \$3 Million VC and Angel round



#### Monique Spann-Wade

### ISW Group, Inc.

- Dermatological products (Independent)
- Founders: Monique Spann-Wade and Essien Ita
- BioGenerator \$400,000; angels \$500,000
- Status: Graduated (07/06); \$2.1 million DOD award; clinical trials underway



## Investments - Current



Chuck Niblett & Ana Bailey

### Venganza, Inc.

- Gene silencing of fungal pathogens (Independent)
- Founders: Chuck Niblett, Ph.D. and Ana Bailey, Ph.D.
- BioGenerator \$500,000; Co-Founders \$100,000
- Status: Corporate partner negotiations underway



Ridong Chen

### APT Therapeutics, Inc.

- Anti-platelet therapy for the treatment of acute thrombosis (Independent)
- Founders: Ridong Chen, Ph.D
- Side-by-side investment with Prolog Ventures
- Status: Awarded \$790K Phase II SBIR grant



## Investments - Current



Tom Baranski



Ross Cagan

### Medros, Inc.

- Medros = Medicines from *Drosophila* (fruit flies)
- Pharmaceuticals for cancer and diabetes (Washington Univ.)
- Founders: Tom Baranski, M.D. and Ross Cagan, Ph.D.
- BioGenerator \$500,000 (convertible debt)
- Status: Closed July 2006; awarded Phase I STTR grant



## **Biomedical Engineering Deals**

- Igor Efimov, Ph.D., Washington University -Medical devices to deliver painless therapy for ventricular and atrial fibrillation
- Eric Leuthardt, M.D. and Dan Moran, Ph.D., Washington University - Communication devices using brain-computer interface technology, e.g. for epilepsy patients